

## Message Text

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STADIS//////////

FOR EUR/RPM LEDOGAR FROM GLITMAN

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TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL: DOD/ISA STUDY PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 160775

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1. WE HAVE TWO BROAD AREAS OF CONCERN REGARDING THE PROPOSED STUDY DESCRIBED REFTEL. ONE INVOLVES ITS ULTIMATE VALUE, THE OTHER INVOLVES REACTIONS FROM ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS IN THE LIKELY EVENT THE STUDY DRAWS ATTENTION.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF EVALUATING FRANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE COMPONENTS OF THE LTDP AND HOW THESE IN TURN WILL RELATE TO FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT A YEAR-LONG STUDY ON THIS PROBLEM WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

3. WE SEE THE ISSUE IN TERMS OF HOW TO BUILD UPON EXISTING FRENCH LIAISON WITH THE LTDP EFFORT. AND WE SEE IT AS ONE WHICH WILL BE UPON US IN A FORTNIGHT WITH THE PUBLICATION  
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OF THE PETRIGNANI REPORT ON LTDP FOLLOW-UP.

4. THERE IS NODOUBT THAT A DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE FRENCH AND THE 13 ON FRANCE'S ROLE IN THE LTDP FOLLOW UP BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THE CNAD WILL BE INVOLVED IN CLOSE TO HALF OF THE SPECIFIC FOLLOW UP ACTION PROGRAMS AND THAT FRANCE AS A MEMBER OF CNAD WILL

HAVE TO DETERMINE ITS POLICY REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY. SECONDLY, THE FRENCH, AS YOU RECALL, MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH 5 OF THE 10 TASK FORCE AREAS, AND WERE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REMAINING 4 CONVENTIONAL AREA TASK FORCES. HERE, AGAIN, THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER THIS LIAISON ARRANGEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE INTO THE FOLLOW-UP PERIOD IS LIKELY TO BE POSED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER AND IN ANY EVENT BEFORE WE CAN DIGEST THE RESULTS OF A YEAR-LONG STUDY. IN SUM, WE WILL NEED POLICY DECISIONS BEFORE THE STUDY IS OFF THE GROUND.

5. OUR OWN VIEW FROM HERE IS THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE CONTINUED FRENCH LIAISON WITH THE TASK FORCES AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CNAD BODY, THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE QUIETLY, AND WITHOUT MAKING A LARGE ISSUE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS (THE GRECO-TURKISH PROBLEM, HOWEVER, COULD RAISE THE ISSUE TO ONE OF PRINCIPLE).

6. ON THE SECOND QUESTION, WE DEFER TO EMBASSY PARIS CONCERNING THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOF OR FRENCH PUBLIC ATTITUDES MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED SHOULD THE STUDY ATTRACT ATTENTION. WE WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE: (A) GIVEN THE NATURE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY (A FRENCH GENERAL, A GERMAN JOURNALIST, ETC.) IT SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THE STUDY WILL IN FACT COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FRENCH, OTHER ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(B) OUR EFFORTS IN NATO AND CAPITALS OVER THE PAST YEAR TO PUSH THE LTDP WERE OFTEN DIFFICULT AND FREQUENTLY RUFFLED SENSITIVITIES. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN NECESSARY MOMENTUM FOR THE LTDP, WE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO PUSH HARD IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. AT TIMES, AS WE HAVE LEARNED, THERE WILL BE RESISTANCE AND OCCASIONAL RESENTMENT, DESPITE THE BASIC SUPPORT OF NATO OFFICIALS AND ALLIES. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, IN WHICH THE ALLIES WILL BE WATCHING WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT, THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROPOSED STUDY NOT ONLY ON FRENCH BUT ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS AS WELL, MIGHT BE GREATER THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE THE CASE.

7. EMBASSY PARIS HAS ALREADY GIVEN ITS VIEWS ON LIKELY FRENCH REACTIONS TO A LEAK OF THE STUDY. WE CAN SUBSCRIBE TO THESE, UNDERSCORING OUR VIEW THAT THE MULTINATIONAL NATURE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY MAKES IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT BOTH THE EXISTENCE OF THE STUDY AND ITS CONTENTS WILL COME TO THE ATTENTION OF FRENCH OFFICIALS AND PERHAPS THROUGH THEM THE PRESS.

8. ON BALANCE, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT,

WE ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE STUDY, LARGELY BECAUSE  
OF THE TIMING PROBLEMS NOTED ABOVE. GLITMAN

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